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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 EXPEDITING PROCEDURE EXAMINING GROUP 3725

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APR 3 0 2004

OFFICIAL

APPLICANT:

E. WITHELM

SERIAL NO:

10/042,726

EXAMINER: J. GOETZ

FILED:

JUNE 27, 2002

GROUP:

3725

TITLE:

CRIMPING PLIERS WITH ADJUSTABLE CRIMPING GAUGE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION FILED WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

ATT: MAIL STOP RCE Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendment is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated JANUARY 7, 2004. With the time for response to the Final Office Action being three months and extended by one month, or until MAY 7, 2004, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4.0f this paper.